

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 - 9. (cancelled)
10. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of protective tubes, comprising:
 - obtaining a plurality of flat knitted fabric bands, comprising polyester threads via a Raschel flat type of loom fitted with a plurality of combs; and
 - shaping the flat knitted fabric bands so that longitudinal ends of each band join together and overlap, wherein the polyester threads of the flat knitted fabric are disposed in P-1 and P-2 comb-linking structure ~~in a using three of said combs (P-1, P-2, and P-3) Raschel loom, wherein the;~~ and
 - providing an overlap of the longitudinal ends are extending over at least 50% of a tubular shape from which the protective tube is determined total width of the bands.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the P-1 comb linking structure handles polyester monofilaments while the P-2 comb linking structure handles polyester multifilament 500 dtex.
12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein movements of the P-1 and P-2 combs are for P-1: linked to stud chain, and for P-2: linked to knitting.
13. (currently amended) The method as in ~~claims 10, 11, and 12~~ claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the shaping is carried out by making each one of the flat bands pass through some elements whose transversal section is gradually reduced.

14. (currently amended) The method as in ~~claims 10, 11, and 12~~ claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the shaping is carried out at temperatures between 150 degrees C and 400 degrees C.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the flat bands advance in a shaping stage at an approximate speed of between 5 - 15 meters/minute.

16. (currently amended) The method as in ~~claims 10, 11, and 12~~ claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the shaping stage includes impregnation of the flat bands with a shaping product.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the shaping product is silicone or resin.

18. (currently amended) The method as in ~~claims 10, 11, and 12~~ claim 10, 11 or 12, further comprising a stage for adhesion of a sheet to the flat bands prior to the shaping.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the sheet is made of aluminum and polyester.